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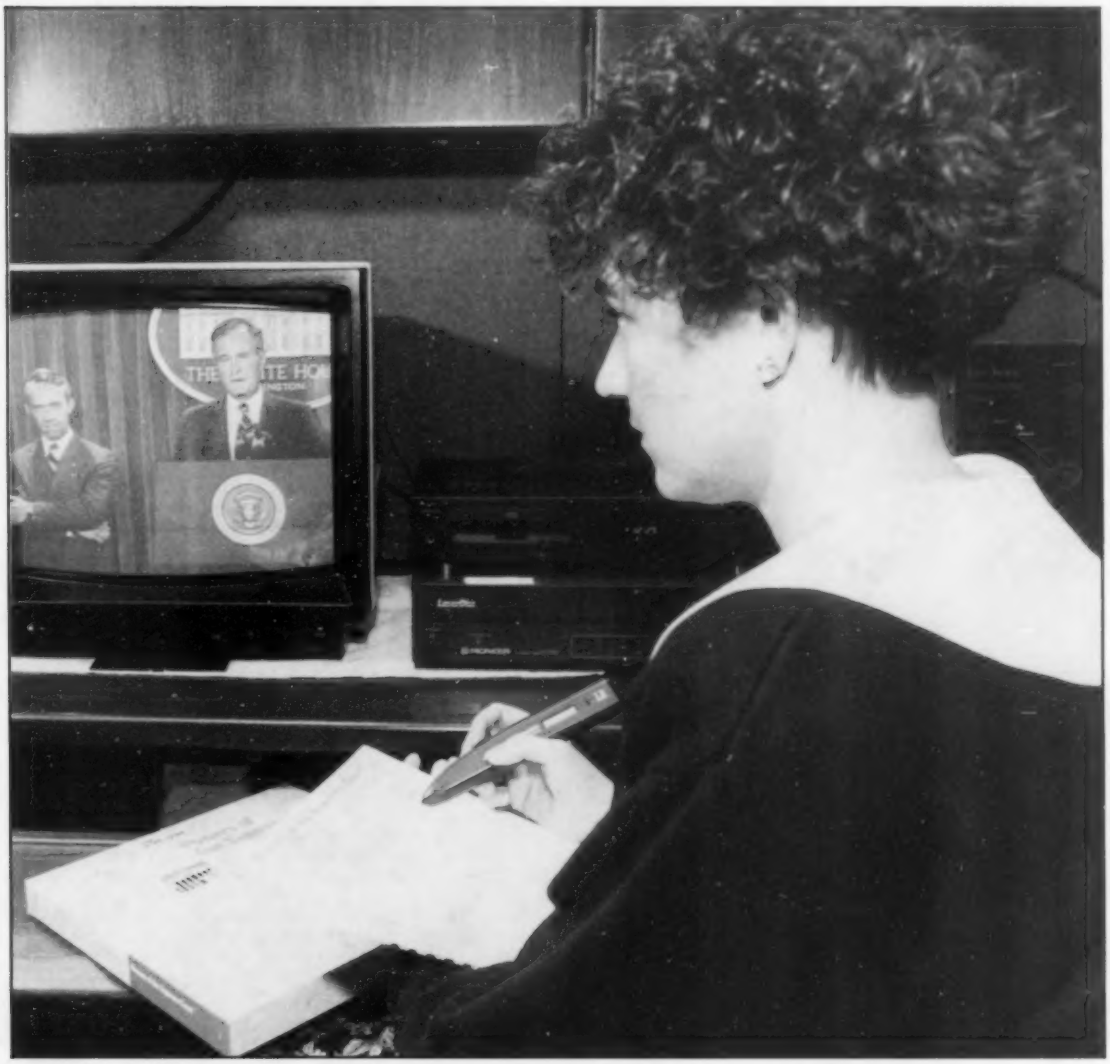

The National Demonstration Laboratory

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: A visitor to the Library's newly installed National Demonstration Laboratory in the Madison Atrium scans a bar code to learn more about the "Powers of the Supreme Court" on laser disc. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Cover Story: The National Demonstration Laboratory for Interactive Information Technology will offer visitors and LC staffers alike an introduction to some of the most powerful technology available in information storage and transmission to emerge in the past decade. 73

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

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Librarian Delivers Budget Message to Congress: *Stresses Science, Storage, Health for Fiscal 1993*

Following are excerpts from the Librarian's formal statement submitted to the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations, House Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 29, 1992:

The Library of Congress is the world's greatest and most usable repository of human knowledge. It is becoming an even more important catalyst for the educational, competitive and creative needs of our nation.

So that we can better utilize the limited resources available, we have done extensive planning over the past several years, including a comprehensive management and planning review that gathered input from a broad spectrum of individuals and groups. The Library plans to continue to sharpen its planning, making sure that every dollar appropriated is being effectively spent. During the next year, the Library will take a comprehensive look at its existing programs to ensure they are of long-term strategic importance and make any necessary recommendations to Congress for funding changes in our fiscal 1994 budget.

For fiscal 1993, we are requesting only those funds necessary to provide the best possible research and reference services to the Congress, to continue aggressively the reduction of our backlog of unprocessed materials, to maintain our traditional core services to the nation and to begin to modernize our capability to deliver scientific and technological information to the Congress and to the country. This request totals

'93 Budget *(Cont. from p. 67)*
$357.5 million, including authority to obligate $24.9 million in receipts, for a net of $332.6 million. This is a net increase of $27.7 million, or 9 percent, over fiscal 1992.

Given the information demands on the Congress and the country, which the Library of Congress is uniquely able to address, this is a frugal budget request. Nearly two-thirds of the requested increase is to keep pace with inflationary costs such as mandatory pay and nonpersonal price-level changes. Of the remaining $10.7 million, the largest single item is for rental of storage space to maintain and preserve our growing collections, and the next largest item is to address safety and ergonomic needs for those personnel who spend 50 percent or more of their time in front of computers.

National Services

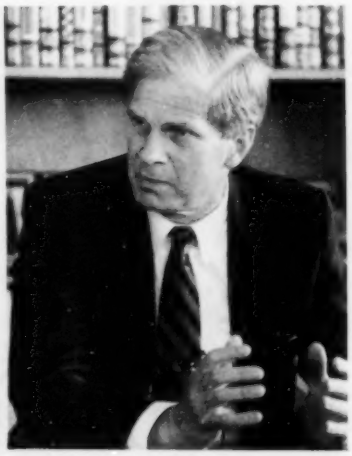
The Library of Congress maintains a collection of almost 100 million items—many of them irreplaceable—in over 450 languages. This massive information resource serves the country in a variety of ways, including:

☐ **Congressional Services:** The Library provides impartial analytical research and information to the Congress on public policy issues—answering more than 500,000 congressional requests a year. The Library's incomparable Law Library and special collections are also specially accessible to the Congress.

☐ **Cataloging Services:** The Library supplies bibliographic records and related products to libraries and bibliographic utilities in all 50 states and territories—cataloging that would cost America's libraries in excess of $370 million annually if they had to do the work themselves.

☐ **Research and Reference Services:** The Library makes available to scholars and other researchers vast information resources, many of which are unique, in virtually all formats, subjects and languages, serving over 900,000 readers and responding to more than 1.5 million information requests a year. The Library also provides on-line access to automated information files containing more than 25 million records for congressional offices, state libraries and libraries that are cooperative cataloging partners throughout the nation. The Library also answers more than 35,000 requests a year from every state in the nation for free interlibrary loan.

☐ **Copyright Services:** The Library's Copyright Office administers U.S. copyright laws and actively promotes international protection of intellectual property created by U.S. citizens—processing more than 650,000 claims for copyright registration and 380,000 requests for information annually.



"Nearly two-thirds of the requested increase is to keep pace with inflationary costs such as mandatory pay and nonpersonal price-level changes."

—James H. Billington

FY '93 Budget at a Glance

Dr. Billington Jan. 29 asked Congress to approve a net increase of $27.7 million, or 9 percent, in the Library's budget for fiscal 1993.

Appearing before the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations, he told the panel that the total requested 1993 net budget of $332.6 million ($357.5 million including authority to obligate $24.9 million in receipts) "reflects our recognition of the nation's current fiscal constraints."

Nearly two-thirds of the requested increase is simply to keep pace with mandatory pay raises and in-grade step increases as well as inflation in the prices of things the library buys. Of the remaining $10.7 million, Dr. Billington said, the biggest single item is for rental of storage space and the next biggest is for ergonomic furniture and safety equipment.

Dr. Billington asked for some $800,000 for a proposed National Center for Science and Technology Information Services, designed "to get us started on the road to providing Congress, the private sector and the research community with scientific and business information on a more efficient basis."

The new center would include an automated reference service—a kind of worldwide electronic "yellow pages" for publications, data and other technical information. This would make it possible for a faraway researcher to find out from LC, for example, which data bases to tap to discover the latest studies on new technologies for manufacturing computers or on the hazards of genetic engineering.

The Library's budget request, observed Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.), the subcommittee chairman, was "reasonable, perhaps unattainable, but reasonable." Also at the hearing in H-302 in the Capitol were Reps. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.), David Obey (D-Wis.) and Larry Smith (D-Fla).

☐ **Blind and Physically Handicapped Services:** The Library manages a free national reading program for 700,000 blind and physically handicapped people and circulates more than 20 million items annually (discs, cassettes and braille) through 147 regional and subregional libraries and multistage centers.

In addition, the Library of Congress:

• Promotes reading and literacy through the 25 state affiliates of the Library's Center for the Book, gives surplus books and serials to needy libraries throughout the nation,
• Manages the nation's leading collection of folk music and folklore and promotes the preservation of folk culture throughout the U.S. and
• Coordinates and administers a cost-effective procurement program for nearly 1,300 other federal libraries.

Links to the World

Besides providing services to the Congress and the nation, the Library, because it is such a unique storehouse of human knowledge, is an increasingly important link to nations overseas, providing at low cost substantial benefits to American libraries, universities, law schools and other institutions. These international activities include:

☐ Purchasing materials through six overseas field offices for the Library of Congress and 97 other major American research libraries.

☐ Training scores of Third World officials in international copyright law and the protection of intellectual property as a basis for free markets.

☐ Bringing millions of foreign items to the Library for American researchers in science, technology and other fields.

☐ Selling our cataloging data to more than 100 countries.

The United States Congress, through its Library, has led the world this year in supporting parliaments in the accelerating democratization process of Eastern Europe. The initiative came from the Speaker's Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe, chaired by Rep. Martin Frost [D-Texas].

With the Congressional Research Service spearheading the Library's efforts, we have provided practical assistance to Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic—and recently added Bulgaria. This aid includes computers, books for parliamentary libraries, help in creating a research and analysis capability, and training of staff and members of the new parliaments. The Frost Task Force has asked the Library to plan similar aid to the Baltic nations. We have been helped by the House Information Systems staff with the encouragement of the House Administration Committee.

We have established a program of mutual cooperation and document exchange with the vast archival resources of the Russian Republic, and we plan an exhibit at the Library this summer of some of the hitherto secret key internal documents of the Soviet Union.

Science and Technology Information Services

To enhance our national competitiveness, we seek $800,000, only 2.7 percent of our requested budget increase, to start the Library on the road to providing Congress, the productive private sector and the research community with scientific and business information on a more efficient basis.

With these funds, the Library will establish a National Center for Science and Technology Information Services, including an automated

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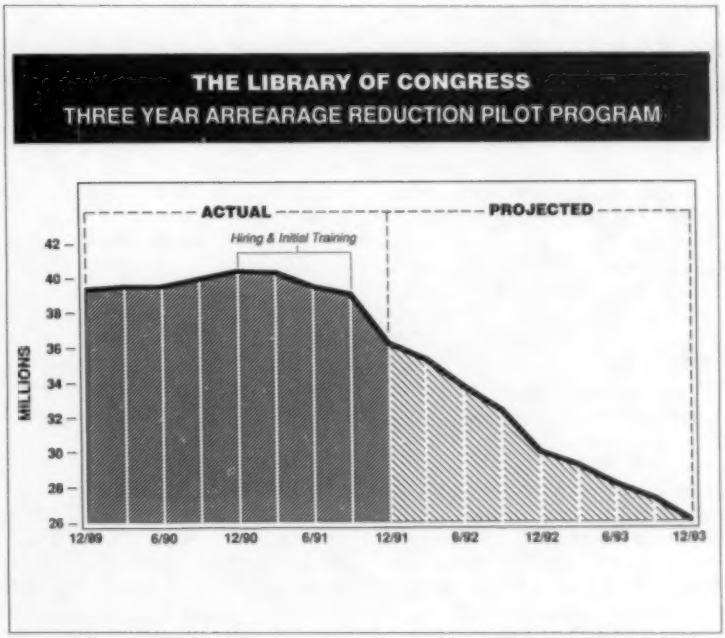


A precipitous drop: The Library predicts that by December 1993, arrearages will fall to 26 million items.

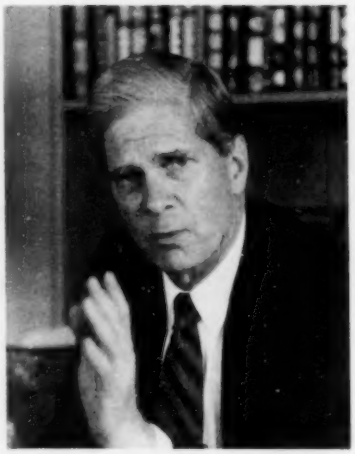
'93 Budget *(Cont. from p. 69)*
reference service—a kind of worldwide, electronic "yellow pages" for publications and data. This would make it possible in the future, for example, for a researcher in San Jose to find out from the Library what data bases or recent studies can help him discover new technologies for manufacturing computers or deal with the hazards of genetic engineering. In this way, we would complement the work being done by the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library, which have each been superb catalysts for American leadership in their specialized fields.

By making these modest investments, we will help the Congress as well as the broader scientific and business community to find the information they need in key areas at relatively low cost.

These funds will also begin to modernize the Geography and Map Division through the installation of an automated Geographic Information System. This approach matches the actions already taken by major mapping agencies (e.g., Census, Geological Survey, Defense Mapping, etc.) and will allow us to take advantage of modern technology to improve access to our map collections.

This effort, like others designed to make the Library's resources available to more Americans, will reinforce at low cost the efforts already under way throughout the nation in schools, libraries, businesses and research institutions.

Our American Memory project, which makes unique Library collections widely available in electronic formats, is now being tested in 44 local schools and libraries across the country. LC DIRECT, which delivers the Library's complete card catalog on-line to 27 state libraries, is also being pilot tested. The Science and Technology initiative will bring other assets of the Library on-line to enhance American learning and productivity.



"Without additional space, some books will need to be stored off-shelf, substantially increasing the risk of damage and inaccessibility. The number of items readers request but do not receive will increase."

Arrearages

Since I last appeared before you, the Library has made major progress in reducing its unprocessed arrearages. Under our pilot program, we are on track toward meeting our three-year target: a reduction of 11.3 million unprocessed items.

During the past year, the arrearages were cut by 4.2 million to a new low of 36.4 million items. We can now make fully available for the first time to researchers and the Congress such impressive materials as the papers of Judge J. Skelly Wright, thousands of 19th century photographs of Native Americans, a collection of Civil War drawings sketched on the battlefield, the musical papers of Serge Diaghilev, the maps prepared for the George Washington Bicentennial Commission during the 1930s and the 800,000 news photos in the *U.S. News & World Report* collection.

We have developed a detailed plan for accomplishing our goal of an 11.3 million-item reduction by the end of 1993. [See chart on page 69] We have so far:

☐ Hired the 164 new cataloging personnel authorized by Congress in the fiscal 1991 budget and trained them. They are all now on the job. In the Manuscript Division alone, these new staff members accounted for more than 400,000 items removed from the arrearages.

☐ Formed an Arrearage Reduction Coordinating Group composed of five senior managers who have direct responsibility for planning and managing our top-priority arrearage reduction activities.

☐ Improved our processing procedures in response to committee concerns. We have begun a process called "copy cataloging"—using catalog records which already exist on bibliographic utilities such as OCLC and RLIN. In the first three months of using this approach, the Library produced records for 2,000 books and 4,000 sound recordings and we expect to increase this production greatly during the coming year.

☐ Separated out some items that do not deserve cataloging. We reexamined the archives donated by several major professional organizations; their usefulness to researchers has been marginal. We decided not to process these archives further, not to keep accepting more of them and to offer some of them back to the donors, thereby reducing the current arrearage by 1.1 million items.

☐ Approved the redeployment of some 70 staff members within Collections Services from other duties to reinforce our campaign against the arrearages.

Storage Facilities

Closely linked to our progress in gaining control over the collections is the need for space in which to store and preserve them. This is a serious matter. Our general collections are expanding at the rate of

300,000 volumes each year, even though we reject thousands of books which do not meet our selection criteria. Approximately 1 million books using 100,000 linear feet of shelf space will be added to the general collections through fiscal 1994. The book stacks in the Thomas Jefferson and John Adams buildings are reaching capacity. That means we must now spend ever-increasing amounts of time and money shifting books around to gain ever smaller amounts of shelf space.

Without additional space, some books will need to be stored off-shelf, substantially increasing the risk of damage and inaccessibility. The number of items readers request but do not receive will increase. We are now almost out of space for some of our special collections, such as motion pictures and sound recordings. Storage needs for all our nonbook format materials, including personal papers, grow at the rate of 15,000 to 20,000 square feet each year.

We have had opportunities in the past year to acquire outstanding special collections, such as the papers of Averell Harriman. Without additional space, we will have to forgo such opportunities in the future, and researchers' ability to examine the American past will suffer.

For fiscal 1993 we propose that our current Landover, Md., warehouse space be converted to collections storage. Moving conventional warehousing activities currently housed at Landover to new rental space and installing multitier shelving in the vacant Landover space will accommodate collections growth for the next five to seven years; it will meet our needs until either the Architect of the Capitol gains the capability to store Library collections or alternative long-range plans are developed.

We have asked for $3.8 million, the largest single item in our request aside from mandatories, to undertake this effort to protect our collections and to continue to make them accessible to our constituents.

Servicing the Collections

A great step forward in making our collections easier to use came with the opening of the Library's Main Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building on June 3, 1991. Our specially designed user-friendly computer access terminals and printers, facilities for laptop computers and a CD-ROM network have made the Library far more efficient for modern researchers. Researchers have heartily welcomed the new capabilities.

Our continued quest for efficiency leads us to request $400,000 to strengthen Constituent Services automation capabilities in our general reading rooms. In the information age, research and reference services increasingly depend on the use of electronic data banks and computer equipment, and we must have the specialists on board to work with librarians to organize and exploit these technologies.

For the same reason, the Law Library needs $200,000 to create greater access to foreign legal data bases and make effective use of

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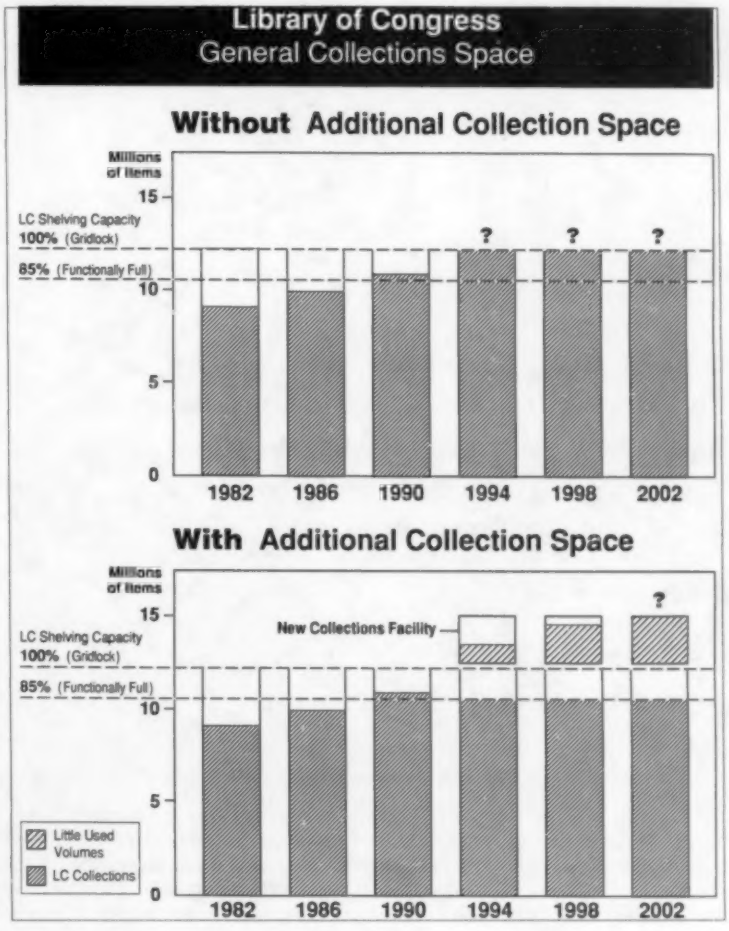

LC Hosts Meeting to Plan Conference on Korea

The Library of Congress was host to an international planning meeting on "Korean Studies and Culture and the Role of Libraries and Librarians" on Jan. 16–17.

Funded under a $1 million grant given to the Library in November 1990 by the International Cultural Society of Korea (now renamed the Korea Foundation), the meeting brought together scholars and librarians from Korea and the United States to plan a major conference in the fall of 1992 in Washington, D.C.

That conference, tentatively titled "Enhancing Korean Studies: Libraries and Scholarship," will be cosponsored by the Library and the Korean Foundation. It will bring together more than 24 specialists from South Korea and the United States to design action plans to improve libraries, communications, data retrieval and scholarship on Korea. The meeting will be held at the Library Oct. 8–10.

Long overshadowed by Chinese and Japanese studies and library collections, Korean studies and library holdings have become of increasing worldwide interest as the status of South Korea has grown internationally and as scholarship has revealed the unique and inherent importance of the Korean cultural and scholarly tradition.

The meeting articulated the growing clientele for Korean studies, which includes the specialist scholars and librarians, those in undergraduate liberal arts programs at universities and in professional schools, the general public—including the growing numbers of Korean-Americans, who now number some 1 million—and secondary school teachers. There are now nine major Korean collections in the United States.

Attending the meeting from South Korea were Joo-bong Kim, director of the National Assembly Library; Ke Hong Park, president of the Korea Library Association; and Hyun-Jik Kim of the Korea Foundation. The United States was represented by several eminent scholars in Korean studies, including Professors Chong-Sik Lee of the University of Pennsylvania, Dae-Sook Suh of the University of Hawaii, Gari Ledyand of Columbia University, Yong-Key Kim Renaud of George Washington University, and Donald S. Macdonald and David I. Steinberg of Georgetown University.

Other representatives of Korean collections were Yoon Whan Choe of the University of Washington, Seattle, and Choong Nam Yoon of the Harvard-Yenching Collection at Harvard University.

Other guests included John Merrill of the State Department, Kathryn Gunning and Richard Huckaby of the United States Information Agency, and Craig Garby of the Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution.

The LC delegation was led by Key P. Yang, head of the Korean Section, and included Choo Un Chang and Sung Yoon Cho. Rinn-Sup Shinn represented Congressional Research Service.

For further information, write to Key P. Yang, Korean Section, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Joo-bong Kim (top, left) of the National Assembly Library in Seoul makes a point to Key P. Yang, head of LC's Korean Section; those planning the October 1992 conference included (from left): Joo-bong Kim; Choo Un Chang of LC's Subject Cataloging Division; and Choong Nam Yoon of the Harvard-Yenching Collection at Harvard University. *Photos by Reid Baker*

LC's Newest Addition to Its Vision for the Future

National Demonstration Laboratory to Open in March

by Kirti Withrow

"Peoplevision" mannequin moves his lips and alters his expressions as he introduces visitors to the National Demonstration Laboratory.

Perhaps the strongest impression a reader gets from H.G. Wells' futuristic *A Time Machine* is the sense of power that comes with an ability to transcend the boundaries of time: the power to influence, define values and shape a society; in short, to control the path into the future.

The National Demonstration Laboratory for Interactive Information Technology (NDL), now housed in the atrium of the Library's Madison Building, owns no time transports, but its machines and their applications represent some of the most powerful technology in information storage, transmission and presentation to emerge in the past decade. While debates rage about the merits and drawbacks of "multimedia"—the marriage of video and computer technology—its destiny as a dominant force in the decades to come has already been settled.

"The great fear of anyone who has the custody of this legacy of the human past and also of anyone who loves books has to be the haunting memory of Alexandria, where so much of the wisdom and accumulated experience of antiquity was lost forever through a great fire. There's all kinds of fires and particularly slow fires that are burning away at our books because of their high acid content since 1840. We're working on that. There's also the problem of film, which is disintegrating into gunpowder," Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has said.

"The exciting possibility of this place," he continued, "is that it's a place to preserve—more than any other single place on this planet—the human heritage of thought and creativity of the past. [Our task is] to preserve that for the future; to preserve that so we can create and build a better future for ourselves in this country and, more broadly, for the world."

Need for a National Center. In 1987 the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Smithsonian Institution entered the interactive technology frontier. Both parties worried that the still-embryonic, but clearly powerful, new technology would be co-opted by the entertainment industry, as some media specialists believe happened to film and television. If the new optical technologies were to serve educational needs in both formal and informal settings, the lab's founders felt there had to be a national center to focus on the educational aspects of the technology's development.

In addition to acting as a neutral site where educators, information scientists, museum officials, public policy makers and others could learn about multimedia technologies, such a center could provide national leadership on such issues as the development of evaluative standards.

In 1988 Jacqueline Hess became NDL's executive director. Ms. Hess brought with her a belief in the value of technology transfer: the sharing of technological innovation among various sectors of society. Having spent 10 years on Capitol Hill as a senior staffer, she supported public debate on emerging issues of national significance. Thus the lab held seminars, drawing participants from public, private and academic sectors, on such issues as intellectual property rights for software and multimedia.

The NDL Research Consortium was formed that year, comprised of representatives of universities, libraries and other educational organizations interested in helping people learn by using interactive technologies. Ben Davis of MIT's Project Athena and Carla Seal-Wanner of Columbia University's Teachers' College provided leadership to the consortium. In its early years the $1,500 annual dues required of Research Consortium members kept the group small. With the move of the NDL to the Library of Congress, however, Ms. Hess has abolished the dues requirement and expects membership to triple by the end of 1992; currently there are 30 members.

LC of the Future: A Library Without Walls. As information technology becomes more sophisticated and widespread, the nation's librarians find themselves, in a sense, at a crossroads. What role does a library have in the information age? Should we be satisfied to sustain libraries in their traditional role, as passive archives of information?

Or has a new role been predetermined by unforeseen technological advances? If so, how can the benefits of old-fashioned, hands-on

(Cont. on p. 74)

Director Jacqueline Hess (standing) shows a visitor to the lab how a computer can access the speeches as well as the images of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. *Photos by Reid Baker*

NDL *(Cont. from p. 73)*
information retrieval be retained?

Dr. Billington has defined the Library of Congress' future through his vision of a "Library Without Walls." As part of his strategy to "open the vaults of human thought and culture" within this institution, the Librarian has encouraged the use of technology. "I see the Library of Congress in the future," he has said, "as an active catalyst for civilization, not just a passive mausoleum of cultural accomplishments of the past."

The American Memory Project, launched in 1989, was the Library's first significant move to use advanced optical-disk storage methods to put Library collections in a form that could be transmitted rapidly across the country.

Describing American Memory's purpose, Dr. Billington said, "It is the variety, richness and depth of the passion of American culture itself, which we as a copyright deposit have such a unique record of, that we are going to get out through new electronic forms to local libraries and schools, sharing that heritage in all its complexities."

Lab Becomes Part of Innovative Management Center. When Rhoda Canter, associate librarian for Management Services, came to the Library three years ago, she envisioned a center that would eventually become the Center for Innovative Management and Technology. This center would provide access to the latest technologies to further the Librarian's goals, and it would help LC staff understand the technologies and their uses in Library operations. When she learned about NDL from Robert Dierker, a senior adviser to Dr. Billington and one of the early architects of the lab, she arranged a trip to the Smithsonian.

"One visit with Jackie Hess in the lab was enough to persuade me we should try to get it and her into the Library," said Ms. Canter. "She had exactly what I would have spent another three years building for the center. The lab also brought a broader mission than I had in mind for the center, but one that was even more appropriate for the Library. The facility would be useful not just for our own staff, but could continue to function as a public resource where over time we could display and provide access to Library multimedia systems and materials.

"This broader mission of the lab helps to integrate Library programs in Cultural Affairs and Constituent Services with the enabling technology services in Library Management Services, so that we can have a more positive impact on the constituencies we serve.

"I hope it will be a magnet for leading thinkers and practitioners in library science and all the fields related to information technology, as well as a catalyst for beneficial change in the Library of Congress."

Joint Projects Under Way. One of the lab's first projects will be with GTE. As a pilot project, it will test transmission of LC collections stored on computer software at high speeds over fiber optic networks. The initial efforts are expected to pave the way for accelerating storage transferral of Library collections onto optical discs, as well as streamlining ways for the Library's resources to reach libraries and learning centers throughout the nation and the world. (Librarians interested in participating in this pilot project are encouraged to contact NDL.)

In what may be the first of its kind, NDL hopes to develop with LC staff and the Council on Library Resources a "virtual reality" application for the Library of Congress. Virtual reality is an interactive technology that allows the user to "enter" the software environment of a computer. LC's application could involve a person walking through stacks, perusing contents, and selecting and reviewing items, while actually sitting in his or her local library, classroom or home.

The laboratory also has 29 interactive workstations. A typical configuration includes a PC attached to an optical disc player. The lab's collection of several hundred multimedia applications, holding millions of images, are on science, math, foreign languages, medicine, art, history, social science, skills training, man-

agement training and more.

Library staff will be able to take advantage of the lab's Integrated Learning System (ILS). Provided by WICAT Systems and IBM, the ILS can be used to teach English as a second language and basic skills or enable participants to qualify for a Graduate Equivalency Degree.

Visitors to the National Demonstration Laboratory will walk away with ideas for applications to schools, libraries, the workplace and museums.

The purpose of most multimedia applications is to provide a simulated learning environment where students have access to rare art images, can "experience" medical emergencies, benefit from realistic off-site industrial training or are able to rediscover the impact of important developments in history.

The vast materials at LC, coupled with interactive technology, could create an unparalleled enrichment of education.

NDL visitors will also see the Nynex Learning System, a 16-monitor interactive video wall. Initially, the video wall will feature a program on immigration and genealogy, identical to a display at Ellis Island, New York. Together with Nynex, NDL expects to develop a Library-based program in the course of the next year.

NDL receives no public financing. All funds are from participating corporations. Representatives from companies that provide operational support of NDL join the Atrium Group, formed in conjunction with the lab's move to the Library in December.

The Atrium Group discusses issues of major public policy significance in information technology. Foremost on the group's agenda are issues of intellectual property rights, development of hardware and software standards, international information flow and technology equity.

Technology equity is integral to LC's philosophy of shunning the creation of a society of information haves and have-nots. The Atrium Group forwards its recommendations to the legislative and executive branches, where debate on legislation and policy continues.

Ms. Hess views the Atrium Group as a potential "Information Technology Business Roundtable," much like the well-respected Business Roundtable, whose recommendations often illuminate executive and legislative branch decision-making. "Policymakers know that once an issue has been debated at length by the competitors within an industry, the resulting conclusions tend to represent positions of compromise with which the major players are comfortable. I expect the Atrium Group to present workable proposals based on real-life experience," Ms. Hess said.

Ms. Hess is encouraging maximum communication between Research

(Cont. on p. 76)

Deputy Director Ellyn Blanton explains how the Integrated Learning System can be used to train Library staffers.

Intern Julianne Fritz experiments with a virtual reality system; the camera on top of the video monitor digitizes Ms. Fritz's image and reacts to her movements.

To Preserve Collections, Librarians Look to Optical Storage

The end of the century has given librarians an entirely new technology for storing collections. Unlike the caretakers of the past, who were limited to paper, film and electromagnetic tapes that disintegrated by the hour, optical storage systems appear to be virtually indestructible. Optical storage and transmission of library materials can increase preservation and distribution of the nation's knowledge. Some of the latest technologies:

Videodisc: A generic term describing a medium of information storage using thin, circular plates of varying formats, upon which video, audio and data signals may be encoded (usually along a spiral track) for playback on a monitor.

A 12-inch disc can store 54,000 identifiable frames or 30 minutes of motion video per side. Using this storage method, an individual frame can be retrieved instantly.

Using a slightly more compressed storage method, where individual frame retrieval is not possible, each side can store up to 60 minutes of full motion video.

Common uses: Education, training, archival, entertainment and public information interactive applications.

CD-ROM: Compact Disc–Read-Only Memory. Originally built as a computer extension, CDs use a digital storage system. A 4¼ inch disc can store 1,000 300-page books of text; the equivalent of 1,500 floppy discs.

Common uses: Information storage.

DVI: Digital Video Interactive. Uses a digital storage system. Same principle as CD-ROM, but with compression storage techniques and decompression reading technology, has much greater storage capacity. Allows full motion video, stereo sound and text all from one CD.

CD-I: Compact Disc Interactive. Introduced on the market in October 1991, CD-I is designed as a consumer home device. With the computer built into the CD-I player, the only hardware required is a television or other NTSC monitor.

Read by a laser beam, with no physical contact with the disc, optical storage means virtually no wear and tear, no deterioration of the medium. The vast storage capabilities of the optical disc lend itself to increased accessibility to the researcher.

NDL *(Cont. from p. 75)*
Consortium and Atrium Group members, so that recommendations reflect not only the interests of the business community but those of the education community as well.

NDL's Reception at LC. To date, the NDL's reception from Library of Congress personnel is mixed. Many welcome the new facility as a much-needed catalyst. Others are less enthusiastic, preferring that other longstanding problems be resolved before any new initiatives are undertaken. Both Ms. Canter and Ms. Hess believe that the "traditionalists" will come to appreciate the lab once they see how it can help them in their jobs.

Describing herself as a collector of books, Ms. Hess says, "This isn't a war between books and technology. When mass printing was first introduced, it was criticized on two, somewhat contradictory, fronts–first, that access to books by the masses would be a dangerous development and second, that not enough people could read to merit a widespread publishing industry."

Today, she said, one sees similar arguments being made about interactive information technologies. "The machines, the software and the optical discs at the lab are all about one thing: access. These technologies can bring the ideas, information and concepts within a rich library of print, sound, and still and motion pictures to people in all parts of the world. The vehicles for doing so resist degradation. That means that the 500th time one plays an optical disc, the images are as clear as the first time. No other medium travels or 'plays' that well."

David Penniman, director of the Council on Library Resources, speaks of the library community's "brick and mortar" problem and of his optimism in using technology to overcome it. "We have to think of libraries as an array of services rather than a facility. What we want to try to do with technology is deliver these services anywhere, instead of having them be delivered solely in a building. We have convinced people in the past that the bigger the building, the greater the services. . . . We believe electronic delivery can be as good, or perhaps better, than traditional library use," he said.

The National Demonstration Laboratory does not resolve the host of problems facing libraries today. It does, however, allow for exploration and the testing of ideas. It should also help to allay fears in the library community and among policymakers in all fields who must deal with the implications of powerful new communications technologies.

–Kirti Withrow is a senior associate of the National Demonstration Laboratory

National Library Service's Spanish Outreach Effort

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has intensified efforts to inform and attract eligible Spanish-speaking readers to the free reading program during the past year.

"NLS now has a full complement of Spanish-language promotional materials and has been making them available to libraries around the country on request," said NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke. Among significant recent publications in Spanish are fact sheets that describe services and equipment available to eligible patrons and informational brochures, one of which includes a flexible audiodisc.

Current Spanish-language initiatives in large measure carry out recommendations from a September 1989 meeting among NLS staff and regional librarians Daniel David of Texas and Irving Figueroa of Puerto Rico. The offerings include:

"Facts: Libros para Ciegos y Físicamente Impedidos" ("Books for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals"), January 1990, provides a general introduction to the NLS program with information on eligibility, range of services and publications available.

"Facts: Hechos: Máquinas de Reproducción Sonora y Accesorios Disponibles Mediante Préstamo Gratuito para Individuos e Instituciones Elegibles" ("Playback Machines and Accessories Provided on Free Loan to Eligible Individuals and Institutions"), November 1989, describes cassette and disc players and accessories such as remote-control devices, amplifiers and headphones, all of which are available at no cost to eligible patrons.

"La Lectura Es para Todos" ("Reading Is for Everyone") is a large-print informational brochure with a flexible audiodisc playable on standard turntables at 33⅓ rpm.

Information in Spanish on the NLS talking-book program of interest to senior adults may be found in "Libros Parlantes para la Tercera Edad" ("Talking Books for Senior Adults").

Application forms in Spanish for participation in the NLS program are available for individuals, and instructions for the use of NLS equipment are available in Spanish on cassette and flexible disc.

NLS has also created radio and television public service announcements in Spanish, newspaper advertisements, posters and Spanish-captioned photomurals designed to enhance NLS convention and conference exhibits. These materials display a toll-free telephone number for requesting information in Spanish at 1-800-345-8901. Many of the new materials were used for the first time in Puerto Rico during spring 1990 in an intensive public-education campaign conducted with the cooperation of regional librarian Irving Figueroa and his staff.

"The Puerto Rico pilot program did increase public awareness," said Robert Fistick, head of the NLS Publications and Media Section.

Outreach efforts will continue to expand in the future. "Funds permitting," Mr. Fistick says, "NLS will explore additional products as recommended by patrons and librarians, including bookmarks, alphabet cards and some publications in Spanish. We're making progress. Our 'Take a Talking Book Campaign' for senior adults is currently being rolled out nationally in both English and Spanish."

In spring 1992 the Puerto Rico regional library will again take the lead as the first to use the Spanish "Take a Talking Book" materials.

Adding books in Spanish to the collection is a vital part of the NLS effort, according to Caroline Longmoor, head of the NLS Collection Development Section. By some estimates, NLS currently serves 5,000 or more Spanish-speaking readers in the United States; there is, however,

"Abuelito, ¡tus libros hablan!"

"Abuelito, mira el nuevo libro grabado que llegó de la biblioteca."

"Gracias, Luis. Quiero leerlo ahora mismo."

"¿Por qué te envió la biblioteca este aparato y esta cinta?"

"Yo los pedí. Con el aparato se puede escuchar los libros grabados en casetes. Todo esto forma parte de un programa nacional gratuito para personas como yo . . . y para las personas que no pueden leer la letra normal o no pueden sostener los libros ni voltear las páginas. Podemos obtener libros grabados en cinta y seguir disfrutando de la lectura."

Para obtener información gratuita sobre el modo de hacer una solicitud, escriba al:

SERVICIO NACIONAL DE BIBLIOTECAS PARA LOS CIEGOS Y FÍSICAMENTE IMPEDIDOS

Biblioteca del Congreso, Washington, DC 20542
o llame gratuitamente al 1-800-345-8901.

"Grandpa, Your Books Talk!"

"Grandpa, here's the new recorded book from the library."

"Thanks, Jerry. I want to read it right now."

"Why did our library send you this machine and tape?"

"I ordered them. The machine plays books recorded on cassette. It's all part of a free national program for older folks like me—or for anybody who can't see standard print, hold books, or turn pages. We can get recorded books and still enjoy reading."

For free information on how to apply, write:

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED,

Library of Congress, Dept. 6, Washington, DC 20542
or call toll-free 1-800-424-9100.

Spanish- and English-language ads for NLS services.

LC Issues 3rd Classic Performances on CD

Between 1949 and 1952, the complete Brahms Sonatas for Violin and Piano were performed in concert at the Library's Coolidge Auditorium by Zino Francescatti (photo, left) and Robert Casadesus (right).

The historic event has just been released as the third issue of the Classic Performances series from the Library of Congress on compact disc. The recording is available in the Library's Madison Sales Shop for $14.95 or through the Public Services Office of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division in Room LM-336 of the Madison Building.

For further information about the series call (202) 707-5623.

NLS *(Cont. from p. 77)*

a much larger number of eligible but unregistered readers.

The NLS collection of Spanish-language materials comprises about 1,400 titles, consisting of talking books on cassette or disc and books in braille. The collection is divided into two components: popular titles mass-produced for NLS and readily available to registered patrons; and the special collection of recorded and brailled materials from other sources, both domestic and foreign.

From 35 to 50 Spanish-language titles are added each year to the collection of mass-produced popular titles. The books are listed and described in the 1988 NLS publication *Foreign Language Books* (ISSN 0748-4615), in large print and on flexible disc. Titles produced since 1988 are described in the bimonthly publication "Talking Book Topics." In addition to cassette books, two popular magazines are available on flexible disc: *Buenhogar* (*Good Housekeeping*) and *Selecciones del Reader's Digest*.

Materials in the predominantly braille special collection are generally limited to five copies or fewer of each item, and are available by request through regional libraries. Foreign-language librarian Jim Herndon of the NLS Collection Development Section builds the special collection by purchasing braille and talking books from a variety of sources, such as the National Organization for the Blind in Spain.

The NLS special-collection books are listed in the *Foreign Language Referral Bibliography*, a regular-print reference tool distributed to NLS regional libraries and updated periodically. This bibliography also lists outside sources for recorded and braille materials, including titles produced by regional libraries that are available on loan.

Libraries in Florida, Puerto Rico and Texas in particular have strong independent collections both of books and magazines.

The role of regional librarians in providing service to Spanish-speaking patrons is crucial, according to Miriam Pace, NLS Network Division chief. "The regional librarians are in direct contact with state and local groups," said Ms. Pace. "We are seeing an increased presence of Spanish-speaking librarians and a growing recognition of the importance of reaching this constituency."

Still, as Mr. Herndon notes, a variety of complex historical and cultural issues—including a reluctance to deal with government agencies—may impede the free flow of information to and from many Spanish-speaking communities.

"Many cooperating libraries do not have bilingual staff or programs to explain the service to Spanish-speaking individuals," he said. "English-speaking librarians must depend to a great extent on bilingual volunteers, local ethnic groups, social workers, family members and other persons to explain the service to, and communicate the needs of, patrons and potential patrons who do not speak English." For outreach efforts to be fully successful, Mr. Herndon maintains, bilingual professionals in all fields of health and social science—not just librarians—must know about the existence of the service and promote its use.

Wallace Stegner Receives a Warm Welcome

Author Wallace Stegner, 82, read to a crowd of some 500 fans Jan. 23 at the National Gallery of Art's East Building auditorium. Though workers added an extra 100 seats to the auditorium, more than 200 people were turned away from the event, cosponsored with the National Gallery by LC's Office of Scholarly Programs and the Poetry and Literature Center.

After warm introductions from Roger Mandle, deputy director of the National Gallery of Art, Dr. Billington, and Sen. Timothy E. Wirth (D-Colo.), Mr. Stegner approached the podium and said, "Washington is a welcoming town. It set me back a little. I'm not exactly used to this."

Born in Iowa in 1909, Stegner grew up in the West, traveling with his family from North Dakota to Washington, Saskatchewan, Montana, and Wyoming before settling in Salt Lake City in 1921.

Little, Brown & Co. awarded Stegner a prize for his first novel, *Remembering Laughter,* but he made his reputation as a writer with his fifth novel, *The Big Rock Candy Mountain* (1943). He has gone on to write a number of novels, short stories and nonfiction works, principally about the American West. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for his novel *Angle of Repose* and the National Book Award in 1977 for another novel, *The Spectator Bird.*

Random House will publish his new book, *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West,* this spring. Though now retired from teaching, Mr. Stegner founded and directed the second-oldest creative writing program in the United States at Stanford University from 1946 to 1971. A list of his students reads like a Who's Who in American Writing.

At Stanford he taught Edward Abbey, Wendell Berry, Blanche McCreary Boyd, Evan Connell, Ernest Gaines, Ken Kesey, Larry McMurtry, Tillie Olsen, Judith Rascoe, Robert Stone and Al Young, among others.

Said Mr. Stegner, "I had a lot of choices about what to read tonight. I thought I could go into my harangue mode or just read stories, but I quit teaching 20 years ago partly because I didn't like to lecture, and there is a time limit."

Mr. Stegner introduced the first story. He said, "I was teaching at Harvard, when I wrote this, making barely enough to live on. That's a plug for Harvard by the way.

"My family seemed characteristic for its failures. A woman at Harvard asked me, 'Was it healthy? It seemed there are so many unhappy stories from your childhood,' she said. 'Well,' I said, 'I can sell one of those stories to *Atlantic* or *Harper's* for $1,100 or pay $25 an hour to have a psychiatrist listen to me, so I guess it wasn't too unhappy.' "

With a deep, resonant voice, Mr. Stegner then read the "Butcher Bird," changing tone with the characters in the dialogue. Originally published in *Harper's* in January 1941, "Butcher Bird" is an initiation story told through the eyes of a boy about his family's visit to a neighbor's farm, and the shooting of hawks and other "butcher" birds.

Mr. Stegner paused for a sip of water and said, "I'll read another one not quite so fierce as that. This one is again set in horse-and-buggy days—actually in Vermont. You can pretend it's Montana or somewhere."

The author then read another short story, "The Traveler" (*Harper's,* February 1952), in which he tells the tale of a pharmaceutical salesman whose car breaks down on a cold, snowy, deserted road.

Mr. Stegner then stopped reading and answered questions from the audience. "Now about this business about killing hawks and butcher birds

Wallace Stegner

I have repented many times over. Those were dismal times," he said.

"What about violence in society? Is it getting worse? Is the fiction being written today capturing it?" someone wanted to know.

"Yes, I think the fiction is capturing it," Mr. Stegner replied. "I think it's far more violent today. Now, this may be the distorted view of an old man, but we did not have the drug problem and that accounts for a lot of it. We only had two drugs back then: Scott's emulsion and alcohol. And Scott's emulsion is cod liver oil."

"Is California part of the West?" asked someone else.

"Seventy-five to 80 percent of the population of the West lives in cities," he said. "It's an oasis civilization—water is scarce. Water is different in California. The climate is different; California is west of the West. When I think of the West, though, I think of the Rocky Mountain West, but you have to put California in the West because there's no place else to put it, though it really belongs in the Pacific Rim.

"Aridity defines the West," he continued. "From the rain shadow

(Cont. on p. 82)

News from the Center for the Book:

Exploring 'Explore New Worlds — READ!' Promotion Theme

"Volunteer book clubs are an important part of our book culture—we must find ways to encourage them," said Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin at a Jan. 23 "idea exchange" sponsored by the Center for the Book. Many of the 60 people participating in the meeting represented national organizations who are joining with the Library in the "Explore New Worlds—READ!" campaign. First lady Barbara Bush is honorary chair of this effort, which focuses on reading as a way of learning about the world and emphasizes geography and the literature of travel and exploration.

Moderator John Y. Cole, the center's director, suggested that participating organizations develop a single reading promotion or literacy project that could continue and be adapted to each year's Library of Congress theme. For example, in 1991 the U.S. Postal Service produced a "Year of the Lifetime Reader" poster for display in 40,000 post offices across the country. It featured stamps depicting authors whose works offered a "lifetime" of reading enjoyment. In 1992 a poster marking "Explore New Worlds—READ!" will highlight stamps depicting American explorers and others on the frontiers of knowledge.

Following is a sampling of the reading promotion ideas shared during the afternoon's lively discussion:

☐ Billboards along highways (the Gannett Co. will sponsor "Explore New Worlds—READ!" billboards in New Jersey)

☐ Sponsorship of "reading" floats in parades celebrating local, state and national holidays

☐ Contests about "books that made a difference" to different segments of the population

☐ Tie-ins with programs and projects developed for the Columbus quincentenary and the International Year in Space, both being commemorated in 1992

☐ A new emphasis on writers-in-the-schools programs, encouraging informal conversations between writers and children

☐ Connections with the April 5 national observance of Self Esteem Enrichment Day (Operation SEED), sponsored by the Links Inc.

☐ Reading promotion and literacy messages in special supplements published in American newspapers

☐ Computer-generated "book reviews for armchair explorers," aimed at newsletter editors in need of stories

☐ Encouraging book-based programming on television and radio

☐ Developing the idea of the local literary map as a "hook" for stimulating interest in books, writers and reading

☐ Making information available on how to obtain multicultural books and magazines

☐ Developing local variations on the Center for the Book's "Explore New Worlds—READ!" theme for posters, T-shirts, bookmarks, pencils and other products.

—Jody Nielsen

Center for the Book Project Specialist Michael Thompson addresses participants at the idea exchange, as (from left) Florence Hesser, Literacy Volunteers of America; Dr. Cole; Ruth Boorstin; Richard Dinges, Cartoonists Across America; Barbara Bricks, National Geographic Society; and Gwen Kirk, ANPA Foundation, listen. *Photo by Reid Baker*

National organizational partners and sponsors who participated in the Jan. 23 "Explore New Worlds–READ!" discussion at the Library:

American Council on Education
American Hotel and Motel Association
American Mensa Ltd.
American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation
American Association for the Advancement of Science
B'nai B'rith
Cartoonists Across America
Child Welfare League
Church and Synagogue Library Association
Correctional Education Association
Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition
Delta Sigma Theta
General Federation of Women's Clubs International
Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
International Association of Business Communicators
International Reading Association
Jewish Book Council
KIDSNET
Literacy Volunteers of America
The Links Inc.
Lutheran Church Library Association
Modern Language Association of America
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Federation of Press Women
National Geographic Society
National Partners for Libraries and Literacy
New Jersey Connection
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Pizza Hut Inc.
Reading Is Fundamental
Teachers and Writers Collaborative
Time Warner
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Information Agency
United States Swimming
Women's National Book Association

70 Million Viewers See Library's 'Read More About It' Super Bowl Message

An estimated 70 million viewers saw a 30-second "Read More About It" message from the Library of Congress on CBS television immediately preceding the Jan. 26 Super Bowl telecast of the game between the Washington Redskins and the Buffalo Bills.

Announcer Terry Bradshaw presented the reading suggestions–*The Football Encyclopedia: The Complete Story of Professional Football from 1892 to the Present* by David S. Neft and Richard M. Cohen and *The Super Bowl: Celebrating a Quarter-Century of America's Greatest Game*–which were chosen by the Library's Center for the Book.

"This is by far the largest audience we've reached during the 12-year history of 'Read More About It,' " commented John Y. Cole, the center's director. It was also the first time a Super Bowl telecast has encouraged viewers to go to their local libraries and bookstores to learn more about football.

Terry Bradshaw

Since 1979 Library of Congress "Read More About It" announcements have been broadcast during more than 350 major CBS programs.

Orlando Patterson Inspires Audience at LC

"I went searching for a soul-killing wolf called slavery; instead I found a meek little lamb called freedom," said author Orlando Patterson in describing the writing of his award-winning book *Freedom in the Making of Western Culture* in a Jan. 23 lecture at the Library.

The world tends to describe slavery as the absence of freedom, the Harvard sociology professor continued, but his research led him to realize that freedom–not slavery–was the topic to be explained. His guiding question was: "If freedom is not natural, why did it come about?"

Patterson's eloquence and thoughtful answers to questions made his lecture a memorable experience for the audience. Sponsored by the Center for the Book and the National Book Foundation, his presentation marked the Library's participation in National Book Week, the annual celebration of American books and authors that features writers talking about their works. Patterson's book won the 1991 National Book Award for nonfiction. His lecture will be published later this year by the Center for the Book.

–Jody Nielsen

Stegner *(Cont. from p. 79)*
of the Cascades and the Sierras, the Rockies cast another rain shadow, half way across Kansas. You have to get to Omaha before you have unassisted agriculture. That land should have never been plowed. We should have left it to the buffalo. They kept it healthy. I think that country and the world is overpopulated with cows and people."

"Is there still a Western personality in America and American literature?" asked someone.

Mr. Stegner: "I'm wondering if there ever was one. There is not enough water to support [towns], unless there are major engineering works, and we've gone about as far as we can go on that. Western communities are hard to find. There is not a sense of place but a sense of motion. In [the works of Jack] Kerouac, Twain's *Roughing It*, [Larry McMurtry's] *Lonesome Dove*, it is the story of the outdoors and of motion."

"Has the West grown as fast as the rest of the country?"

"Yes, in the last 20 years it has grown more than is healthy," he answered. "Now some chambers of commerce might disagree with me, but we're going to have to retreat. We cannot maintain growth or present status."

"Is your novel *Crossing to Safety* autobiographical?"

Mr. Stegner: "Well, I had three people come up to me today and say they were so glad my wife isn't in braces. I've taken what my life has handed me.

"Henry Adams said, 'Chaos is the law of nature and order is the dream of man.' *Crossing to Safety* is autobiography bent to the ways I wanted it to go. It's memoir. Some of our friends struck us as odd. They still strike us that way, and I'm not sure I understand them any better now, but at least they're put to rest."

"Have any of your fictional characters taken off on their own?"

"No, not if I can help it," he said. "I try to keep a short rope on them. There is so much trial and error in writing a novel, but it has to be held to one road."

"What about the shaping process in writing a story?"

"Once in a while you can put a shape on a story. I agree with what Hemingway said. 'The only end to a story is death,' but you can't butcher people that wildly, so you look for a substitute death."

That ended the question-and-answer session and the audience gave him rousing applause. The writer then signed copies of his books and greeted his fans.

—Edward Ohnemus

'93 Budget *(Cont. from p. 71)*
computer equipment. These data bases in foreign languages contain authoritative information on legislative developments abroad that we need to answer congressional inquiries in a timely fashion. The amount for the Law Library also provides for a training administrator to handle the increasing demand for legal research instruction, which was provided to more than 500 congressional staff last year.

The Library's active Cultural Affairs unit brings the Library's riches to millions of Americans through its exhibits, films, a national cable television series, publications, literary events and scholarly meetings. The Library conducts these outreach programs with the assistance of private donations and has limited its request for this unit to one key administrative assistant position, amounting to $34,193.

Management Support

Ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for the Library's staff requires an increase of $3.5 million: $780,000 for ergonomically correct chairs, $2.5 million for workstations and $221,207 for security equipment and staff.

Health complaints by staff members who spend a significant amount of their time in front of video display terminals (VDTs) can be avoided through improved workstation design and increased attention to employee work habits.

The Library has begun staff training for the proper use of workstations; the funds requested will bring up to acceptable contemporary standards the workstations for 1,100 staff members who spend at least 50 percent of their time using VDTs. The Library will also complete the replacement of old chairs that do not meet ergonomic standards.

To enhance the security of the Library's staff, collections and buildings, we request $221,207 to install and operate metal detectors at the nine building entrances where we presently conduct manual entrance inspections and an X-ray inspection system in the mail room. At the present time, Library buildings are the only buildings on Capitol Hill which have not been given these security measures.

To develop and implement improvements in the operation of the Library's financial management system as recommended by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the Library requests $117,930 for two systems accountants.

The Library has already taken steps to address recommendations contained in the GAO's report on the Library's first financial audit, including improving financial direction, improving control over the Library's collections, improving administration of the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK) program and proposing legislation to establish a revolving fund.

As directed by the committee, the Library is preparing a report that will evaluate options available for improving financial management systems. However, as GAO concluded, it will require a sustained effort and additional resources over a number of years before all problems are fully corrected. These two professional staff will be essential to that process.

In response to a governmentwide effort in the Washington Metropolitan area, we have asked for $504,000 for participation in the public transportation program as provided by section 629(a) of Public Law 101-509. This law gives the Library a unique opportunity to participate in the Metropool program sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The law's purpose is to encourage more ridership on public transportation and provide employees who use public transportation with a tax-free benefit of up to $21 per month.

We are asking for $550,000 to bring the telecommunications cabling in the Madison Building up to the same standard now available in the renovated Jefferson and Adams buildings to support new automated computer systems.This item is consistent with the Architect of the Capitol's request for funds to develop a Capitol Hill electronic data network. These initiatives will enable us to serve the Congress better and to handle more requests for more information more efficiently at less cost.

One of the Library's chief goals is ensuring cultural diversity, a nondiscriminatory work environment for all employees and greater opportunities for training and advancement. To that end, I am pleased to report that we have completed bargaining with the labor organizations over the Library's new Multi-Year Affirmative Action Plan.

We have made progress in meeting the plan's objectives by launching a program to train minority technicians for professional jobs and to create a pool of qualified women, minorities and persons with disabilities, currently in GS–6 through GS–12 nonsupervisory positions, for future consideration as administrators and managers. The Library has also expanded its Professional Development Associate Program from the four positions funded by Congress to 14 positions by special details from Library service units.

Copyright

For the Copyright Office we are requesting a total increase of $1.3 million, which is offset by our request to use $738,000 of increased receipts, for a net increase of $585,000. Congress enacted a revised copyright fee schedule that went into effect last January. As a result of this committee's approval to use additional fee revenue, the Copyright Office has been able to reduce the time required to process routine claims from a high of 12 weeks to an average of six weeks.

This budget requests authority to spend additional receipts stemming from a full year's implementation of this law and to hire three new staff for the Copyright Licensing Division. These additional positions will permit implementation of the proposed Audio Home Recording Act of 1991. We also request that the fiscal 1992 base funds for the Copyright Office's optical disk system amounting to $500,000 be maintained in fiscal 1993 to pay for actual system costs. The Register will expand on these points in his testimony.

Congressional Research Service

The additional $4.7 million requested in the Congressional Research Service budget is composed of $3.8 million for mandatory pay increases, $412,645 for price-level changes and $500,000 for increased access to commercial data bases, which is critical to the timeliness of responses to congressional inquiries. The director will elaborate on this requirement in his testimony.

National Library Service For the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Finally, we are asking for an increase of $3.8 million to continue the Library's free national reading program for the blind and physically handicapped. The increase reflects the nature of the program—that of the procurement of goods—as market-driven, where actual production costs dictate budgetary requirements. The increase does not represent any new programs; rather it permits maintenance at a constant level of library service to approximately 700,000 people.

Conclusion

As we near the 21st century, facing both fiscal constraints and complicated challenges, we should not forget that, as in the past, we can draw on the diverse talents and adaptability of our people, on the flexibility and energy of our economic system and on the special institutional assets created during 200 years of democratic government.

One of those unique assets is the Library of Congress, created by the legislative branch to preserve America's memory and to give both the Congress and the people the widest possible access to knowledge in an age when new knowledge becomes a key to progress and to prosperity.

The Library of Congress is in a special position to help the nation move ahead in the decades to come. First, it can enrich and foster the pursuit of truth, as Thomas Jefferson wanted it, making our unmatched collections and knowledgeable staff a ready source of information for Congress and a focus of creativity for the nation.

Second, by exploiting new electronic technology, the Library can enormously increase the knowledge available to Americans in their local communities—in schools, colleges, libraries and private sector research enterprises from Key West, Fla., to Anchorage, Alaska. The Library can provide on-line much of the organized knowledge base needed to stimulate students and teachers, to speed the work of researchers in science and technology and to open up new worlds to the ordinary citizen.

The Library, in short, can play a significant role in radically upgrading local institutions of learning and research, so that even those Americans far from great universities and the most affluent schools and libraries can still have access to the best of the nation's heritage and the latest in up-to-date information.

Technology will make this possible; and, properly organized and supported, this dissemination of knowledge will raise the whole level of intellectual activity in America. The Library is an enormous asset to the United States with great potential to improve the nation's future well-being.

Our budget request for fiscal 1993 lays the foundation for realizing this potential.

At the conclusion of his oral testimony, before answering questions, the Librarian said:

Now, I realize that this committee faces severe budget constraints. But I would be remiss as Librarian of Congress if I did not note the progress we have made.

The Congress, since fiscal year 1990, has in effect rebuilt its Library. It has ended the budget erosion that forced the Library to leave more than 500 positions vacant during the late 1980s. Since 1990 the Congress has enabled the Library to tackle its arrearages, to begin to modernize its automation, to begin financial management reforms, to undertake a serious affirmative action program and to test new technology to get the Library's resources out to reinforce local libraries and schools.

To reduce its resources now that the Library has begun to move forward would put the Library back where it was during the 1980s, leading soon to a decline in services to the Congress and the nation and to lost opportunities for greater service. The Library either continues to move ahead or risks beginning a slide backward that will be very hard to stop.

CLARIFICATION

A sentence in the story "The *Information Bulletin* Turns 50" (Vol. 51., No. 1, page 6) should have read as follows: "By the second week in December **1941,** the United States was officially at war with Japan and Germany."

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